



Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Animal Health

Newsletter

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From the Commissioner...



We're proud to offer the *Animal Health Newsletter* as a way of keeping you, the animal health professional, better informed about our services and animal health issues in general.

With emerging animal diseases, the potential for bio-terrorism and other threats, it's important more than ever that we work together. Staying informed and sharing information is one of the greatest assets we have in safeguarding animal health in Tennessee.

There are a lot of important and exciting things happening in the area of livestock production, animal health and animal emergency planning. Among them are the National Animal Identification System, the development of local Disaster Animal Response Teams and improved diagnostic capabilities.

With the appropriation of \$5 million for agricultural revitalization in Governor Phil Bredesen's budget, we're also excited about new initiatives we are launching this fall to help improve animal health and livestock marketing. We look forward to sharing more information with you over the coming weeks.

In the meantime, I commend to you the staff of the State Veterinarian's office and our diagnostic laboratory for their dedication and professionalism. Please let us know how we can better serve you.

Best regards,

Ken Givens

Good News

After one and a half (1 ½) days of reviewing testing procedures and management activities, the Kord Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory has gained full accreditation from the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians Accreditation Committee. There were a variety of recommendations from the accreditation committee which the lab will begin implementing. Also, the Kord Lab is proceeding with membership in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). Cooperative agreement funds will assist in the development of an internet component to allow communications between participating NAHLN laboratories.

Dr. Tom Chang, Supervisor of the Immunology and Virology Unit, recently completed training for testing samples for the presence of Foot and Mouth Disease virus and Classical Swine Fever virus (hog cholera) in support of the NAHLN. Dr. Tina Fisher has been appointed Assistant Laboratory Director and Dr. Philip Gordon appointed Assistant State Veterinarian, Regulatory Animal Health.



From the Front Desk

Meet the Staff

Ken Givens
Commissioner

Jimmy Hopper
Director of Regulatory Svcs.

Dr. Ron Wilson
State Veterinarian,
Director of KADDL

Dr. Philip Gordon
Asst. State Veterinarian

Dr. Tina Fisher
Asst. Director of KADDL

Dr. Charles Hatcher
Animal ID Coordinator

Dr. Robert Linnabary
Emergency Response Coord.

Dr. Jill Johnson
Staff Veterinarian

Dr. Nick Todd
Staff Veterinarian

Tina Rogers
ASAI

Brandy Wheaton
Secretary

Dawn Dreyer
Administrative Secretary

Kelly Lang
Administrative Secretary

Ruth Campbell
Medical Transcriptionist

Betsy Ruppert
Lab Technician

The staff at the C.E. Kord Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (KADDL) answers or, tries to answer, many inquiries on test results, tissue submissions and necropsies.

On occasion, there may be a delay in reporting the results simply due to incomplete submission information. To help us provide timely reporting, please fill out the submission forms completely. The following is a summary of how a submission is handled and the necessary information needed.

The first step in processing specimens at the Kord Laboratory is recording information and accession assignment. Our laboratory handles a large number of samples on a daily basis (over 20,000 submissions each year) and having the proper information upon receipt is critical. Because we serve the entire state of Tennessee, one name does not always correspond to one person or clinic. In fact, there are several clinics in our database with the same name, veterinarians with the same name, owners with the same name, veterinarians working with several clinics, etc. The chance of making a mistake is substantially increased when an incomplete or illegible submission form is received. To run both smoothly and efficiently, complete and legible submission forms are necessary. More specifically, here is a list of the most important information that must be completed on a submission form:

- clinic name
- first and last name of submitting veterinarian
- case history
- date when specimen was collected
- first and last name of owner
- animal identification
- species
- sample description
- tests requested

*Good
submission
information helps
us to
return
laboratory
information back
to you quicker.*

Calling clinics to verify illegible or incomplete information is quite time consuming. Taking time to complete a submission form at the time of submission will save time for the Kord Laboratory staff and assist us in responding quickly to the diagnostic needs of your clinic. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and we thank you for using our services.

Call (615) 837-5125 for help and information regarding laboratory operations.

A Special Request for Kord Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory Clientele!

As part of the ongoing efforts at the Kord Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory to improve the quality of service to our clients, we have enclosed a Client Questionnaire. We would be grateful if you would take a minute to help us understand how we can improve the quality of service we provide you.

Your responses can be conveniently faxed to the laboratory at (615) 837-5250 or we have provided an addressed envelope for mailing.

Dr. Ed McKinley, C.E. Kord Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, 615-837-5120

USDA Accredited Veterinarian Update Information

In JAVMA, Vol 227, No. 4, August 15, 2005, there is an ad on page 655. It reads: "If you are an accredited veterinarian, the US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) wants to be sure it can reach you. APHIS is instituting a new database that will allow us to more easily communicate with accredited veterinarians. It will allow us to distribute important animal health updates and information concerning animal health certificates or notify you of an emergency situation. The new database will make it easier to communicate about regular program activities as well."

APHIS is asking accredited veterinarians to update their information to make the database as accurate as possible. For your convenience, you may update your information at: www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nvap and click on "Update Your Information."

If you do not have internet access, please contact the area office in the state where you are accredited and update your information over the phone. To be connected to the APHIS area office for your state, you can call toll free 1-866-536-7593.

Peggy L. Adams, Secretary, USDA/APHIS/VS, Nashville, TN (615)781-5310



Tennessee implemented emergency rules for CWD in 2002 which became final in 2004

Chronic Wasting Disease Highlights

Tennessee has an estimated 885,000 wild deer population. Over the last 3 years TWRA has tested 7,400 harvested deer for chronic wasting disease (CWD), all of which were negative.

Tennessee has 53 known captive cervid premises holding an estimated 3,000 total cervids. Of this total number about half are elk. Tennessee's import requirements for CWD are for just the known susceptible species, which are elk, red deer, whitetail, blacktail, and mule deer and elk/red deer hybrids. Of course, whitetail importation is not permitted by TWRA.

Other states may include all cervid species in their import requirements so Tennessee's Voluntary CWD program is made available to all cervid species. As of 2003, TWRA requires that any susceptible cervids in a licensed hunting preserve in Tennessee be from a herd enrolled in Tennessee or from a herd meeting Tennessee's import requirements.

In addition to the 7,400 wild whitetail sampled Tennessee has sampled 108 captive elk and red deer and 28 other cervids since 2000 from 17 total premises, all negative. Also, all death losses of TWRA-released elk located and testable have been negative.

For more information about Tennessee's CWD program contact the state office at (615) 837-5120

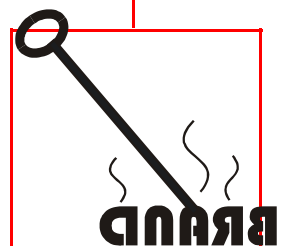


Tennessee's cervid population remains negative to CWD after 3 years of testing.



National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)

If you own flocks of birds that are not currently enrolled in our voluntary NPIP Certification Program, and would like your flocks certified as Pullorum-Typhoid Free, please contact us at (615) 837-5120 to request an application for certification and to set up a testing date.



Need to Register a Brand?

**Call
(615) 837-5120
to request an application.**

The Kord Laboratory offers an indirect fluorescent antibody test for the detection of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF)

Do you Have Your DART Badge?



Expanded Immunology

The Kord Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory is now offering a serologic test for the detection of bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) persistently infected (PI) animals in a herd. This test utilizes enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) methodology and can detect BVDV antigen in either serum samples or ear notch biopsy samples from BVDV PI animals. The sample of choice for this assay is either serum or a “fresh” ear notch biopsy. Only serum samples from pre-colostral newborn calves or calves older than three months of age are suitable for testing while ear notch samples may be collected from animals of all ages, including calves younger than three months of age. Unlike immunohistochemical methods, the ear notch biopsy must be submitted as a “fresh” sample and **not** be placed in formalin. Funding for this procedure is being provided on a temporary basis, although the allocated funds should support testing for the near future. Please contact the lab (phone: 615-837-5125) if you have questions regarding these services. It is especially helpful to contact the laboratory in advance where whole herd testing will result in greater than 50 specimens being submitted.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is a tick-borne rickettsial disease caused by *Rickettsia rickettsii* that affects dogs. Transmission is by the American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*) and the wood tick (*D. andersoni*). Recent reports also indicate that *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* could also serve as a vector. Incubation period for the disease is two days to two weeks and clinical signs reflect damage to vascular endothelium leading to microvascular hemorrhage and edema. The widespread vasculitis in multiple organs can evidentially cause DIC and shock with clinical signs reflecting multiple organ damage. Other signs include fever, depression, multiple areas of edema, respiratory distress and possibly neurological signs. Serum titers maybe negative in peracute cases with four fold increases between acute and convalescent titers aiding in diagnosis. Titers may remain positive for an extended period of time, yet may be lower in treated dogs than in untreated dogs. It is important to remember that this disease has zoonotic potential, primarily in young adults and children. Source of infection is from ticks and the agent is not directly transmitted from dogs. The Kord Laboratory offers an indirect fluorescent antibody test for the detection of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF). Serum is tested at dilutions of 1:64, 128, 256, and 512.

Tennessee Disaster Animal Response Team

Upon completion of the Tennessee Disaster Animal Response Team (TDART) plans in early 2000, we established the goal of having a DART in every county in Tennessee by the end of 2006 and to have as many people credentialed to work at disaster sites as possible. As of August 1, one county has an active team and two others are close to completion of their plan. There are approximately 600 people credentialed in Tennessee. Obviously, there is a lot of work to do to achieve our goals.

This past year, Dr. Doug Balthaser and Mr. Jim McKee have worked part time with the Department of Agriculture and have played a big role in helping Middle Tennessee and West Tennessee counties with their DART planning. Those of you who have worked with Dr. Balthaser and Jim can appreciate their work. As of now, both Doug and Jim are on USDA cooperative grant money which terminates on September 30, 2005. They will be able to continue their work in Middle and West Tennessee under a new cooperative agreement with the USDA.

The problem in getting the photo ID badges to everyone has been resolved. We are nearly caught up, but if you haven't received your badge, let us know. Also, if you have received your badge and there is a badge error of any kind, return it noting the error and we will re-issue the badge. If your county is in the process of establishing a DART and you need help or have more people credentialed, let us know and we will arrange a time to meet with your group.

Due to a mandate from the Department of Homeland Security, all responders to emergencies/disasters must be credentialed and have a visible photo ID badge. Tennessee has a comprehensive credentialing system for animal care workers which has been used as a model for other states. We have been working with the Southern Animal Health Association (SAHA) to develop a credentialing system for the southeast and other agencies have asked for information. What this amounts to is, the system we are using may be used by FEMA through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) for deploying animal care workers to disaster sites around the country. We will keep you informed of developments as they occur.

robert.linnabary@state.tn.us (615) 837-5120

Tennessee Animal Identification Program

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture has begun the Tennessee Animal ID Program in support of the National Animal ID System (NAIS). The goal of the NAIS is to have the ability to identify all animals and premises that have had direct contact with a foreign animal disease or a domestic disease of concern within 48 hours of discovery. In all likelihood, the people in the field will be the first to report an animal disease of concern. We cannot implement this program without you and are asking for your help.

Both the National and the Tennessee Animal ID Programs are divided into three phases: phase one is registration of premises, phase two is individual or group animal ID, and phase three is the reporting of animal movements. Our primary focus at this time is the registration of premises. The approval by USDA of official ID for each species is anticipated for sometime this fall. Statewide registration of premises began in Tennessee on July 1. We have currently registered over 2,000 premises in the state of Tennessee. The current timeline drafted by the USDA for NAIS is to have mandatory premises registration and individual animal ID by January 2008 and mandatory animal movement recording by January 2009.

The Tennessee premises registration form is available to download and print out on our Tennessee Animal ID Website at www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/tpis. Also, the premises registration form is available at Farm Service Agency offices, County UT Extension offices, Farm Bureau offices, local Tennessee Farmers Cooperative stores, your local feed or farm supply store and many large animal veterinary offices. You can submit the completed registration form to TDA by mail to: PO BOX 40627, Melrose Station, Nashville, TN 37204 or fax to (615) 837-5250, Attn. Premises Registration, or to the local FSA office. A premises is any geographically unique location associated with animal agriculture that would allow for the commingling or movement of livestock involved in commerce. Under this definition, farms, livestock markets, fair sites, and many veterinary clinics are all premises of importance.

We encourage you to register your premises and participate in Tennessee's Animal ID Program and we value your comments as we move forward in this endeavor. Your support is very important to us, as this is very much a partnership effort. The Tennessee Animal ID Program will safeguard Tennessee livestock, build consumer/ citizen confidence, and improve our marketing capabilities.

For information regarding premises registration, please refer to enclosed letter.

There are over 2,000 registered premises in Tennessee.



Enhanced BSE Program

The BSE enhanced surveillance program began June 1, 2004. Through August 28, 2005, there have been 452,760 samples collected with three showing inconclusive test results on the screening elisa test. Of these three inconclusive tests, two were negative and one was positive on the immunohistochemistry (IHC) test at USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL).

The BSE positive cow was born and raised in a herd in Texas, was approximately 12 years old, and had never been off the farm according to information obtained from the owner. She was sent to a 3D/4D pet food plant in Texas and was selected for sampling on arrival. The animal was non-ambulatory and did not enter the human food or animal feed chain. The remains of the animal were incinerated.

Animals of interest associated with the herd (animals that were born the year before and after and any of this animal's offspring that were born within the last two years) were identified and tested. All were negative for BSE.

The feed history investigation conducted by FDA concluded that the animal was most likely infected prior to the 1997 BSE/ ruminant feed rule.

Also included as part of the BSE enhanced surveillance program is the testing of 20,000 regular kill animals over 30 months of age. This will be done during September and October 2005 at slaughter plants across U. S.

The current BSE enhanced surveillance program is expected to conclude the end of October. The direction BSE surveillance will go from there has not been determined. We will let you know of the surveillance program changes as they develop.



News Alert

Blue-green algae poisoning has been diagnosed in the State near Paris, TN. *Merismodsdia sp.* was identified from a pond which had an unusual foul odor. The blue-green algae identified is one of many that will cause poisoning in cattle if the environmental conditions are favorable.

The five year old cow was icteric with an elevated temperature of 108°. The cow's bladder contained dark brown urine at necropsy. Icterus was a very marked lesion with the liver being green in color and having evidence of hepatic necrosis on sectioning. Hepatic necrosis and biliary hyperplasia were prominent histopathological lesions.

If livestock losses are occurring and the animals are drinking from a pond, isolate the pond until the water can be tested for the presence of blue-green algae.

Dr. Don Roberts, Kord Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab, (615) 837-5291

Questions?

The Animal Health Section of TDA handles questions regarding Health Certificates, NPIP Program, Brand Registration, Dog & Cat Dealer Licensing, Livestock Dealer Licensing, Community Livestock Sale Licensing, Tennessee Premise Identification Program, and various other services.

For more information, please call us or visit our website.

State Veterinary Animal Health Section
phone: (615) 837-5120
fax: (615) 837-5250

C.E. Kord Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab
phone: (615) 837-5125
fax: (615) 837-5250

Visit our website at <http://www.tennessee.gov/agriculture>

Note to Newsletter Recipients

The preferred method of distributing the newsletter is by e-mail. If you have received the newsletter by another delivery system such as regular mail or fax and if you have an e-mail address please send it to us for future newsletters. Electronic distribution is faster and much less expensive. Eventually, we will be putting the newsletter on the Department's website and we will need your e-mail address to inform you of a new posting.

Articles will be from the State Veterinarian's office, diagnostic laboratory, USDA-Veterinary Services, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, Disaster Animal Response Teams (DART), and any other office that needs to send out informative updates concerning their activities. We intend to have the newsletter be "user-friendly" and encourage comments and suggestions.



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www.tennessee.gov/agriculture

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SEE PAGE 5 FOR ANIMAL ID INFORMATION